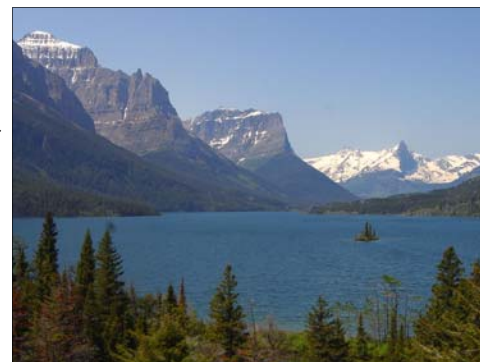


ORH will participate in the 2012 National Rural Health Association (NRHA) Conference in Denver, Colorado April 17-20, 2012

The VHA Office of Rural Health (ORH) is sponsoring two sessions and will have a booth in the exhibit hall at the annual National Rural Health Association (NRHA) conference to be held this month in Denver, Colorado. This conference brings these rural members together from across the country for networking, sharing, and education. In one of two sessions sponsored by VA, Dr. Tom Klobucar of ORH, will present on his mobile teleretinal imaging demonstration project. Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes, and the VA recommends retinal screening at first diagnosis and at 2-year intervals thereafter. Dr. Klobucar demonstrated that he could double the number of screenings in rural diabetic Veterans by instituting a mobile teleretinal imaging program in rural VA clinics. In the other session, Dr. Jay Shore will present his work on best practices developed over a decade in establishing telemental health clinics for Native Veterans living in rural areas. ♦



IN THIS ISSUE:

- VA participation in NRHA 2012 Annual Conference
- SVAC Field Hearing on "Improving Access to Quality Care for Rural Veterans" in Billings, MT

Did You Know?

- NRHA is a not-for-profit membership association for rural health care providers, researchers, policy makers, medical and nursing students, and other rural health stakeholders. It is the largest rural health membership organization in the country and has more than 21,000 members that represent a broad spectrum of rural health interests.
- NRHA is the only national organization with a clear mission to improve the delivery of health services in rural areas. It has the capacity, through its members and staff, to provide research, education, leadership, and informational support to help rural citizens build, maintain, and improve the institutions that can meet their health care needs. ♦

Senator Jon Tester to Chair Veteran's Affairs Field Hearings in Billings, MT Focusing on Health Care Access for Rural Veterans on April 21

- Senator Jon Tester will chair a field hearing of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in Billings, MT on Saturday, April 21. The hearing, called "Improving Access to Quality Care for Rural Veterans" will feature panels of Montana Veterans Affairs officials, local health care providers, Veterans and their advocates. The panelists will discuss topics related to physician recruitment, telehealth services, mental health care, transportation, and issues affecting Native American Veterans. Tester, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, will begin his hearing 10:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- The hearing is free and open to the public. For more information, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/events/425613590787227/> or visit <http://tester.senate.gov/hearing>. ♦

